

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 08505 200847Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 /010 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5348

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FOR AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP (SMITH, ROBERT P.)
SUBJECT: ARRIVAL CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
SPEECH

1. CHARGE INFORMED BY MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AGGREY-ORLEANS NOV. 19 THAT "IT WOULD BE BEST IF PRESS NOT PRESENT AT AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL." REASON GIVEN IS THAT AGGREY-ORLEANS WANTS TO MAKE SURE AMBASSADOR IS PRESENTED TO THE COUNTRY UNDER CONTROLLED CIRCUMSTANCES, I.E. THROUGH PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY. WE WILL COMPLY WITH HIS WISHES AND WILL NOT INVITE THE PRESS TO COVER THE ARRIVAL. THUS, THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO MAKE AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT.
2. IN DISCUSSING THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, AGGREY-ORLEANS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WANTS TO HAVE IT AS SOON AFTER THE AMBASSADOR ARRIVES AS POSSIBLE. TOWARDS THAT END, HE SAID IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP TO HAVE THE TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS SPEECH BEFORE HE ARRIVES IN GHANA. (APPARENTLY ACHEAMPONG AND HIS PEOPLE LIKE TO HAVE A SPEECH AT LEAST FOUR DAYS BEFORE THEY HAVE TO REPLY TO IT.) PLEASE CABLE SPEECH ASAP AND WE WILL PASS IT TO MFA AND MAY HAVE A DATE FOR THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY BEFORE AMBASSADOR SMITH ARRIVES HERE.

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3. AGGREY-ORELANS ALSO ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE CONTENTS

OF THE SPEECH SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF THE AMBASSADOR WERE TO TALK ABOUT HOW OUR RELATIONS ARE ONCE AGAIN ON A GOOD FOOTING, ETC. SO ACHEAMPONG CAN RESPOND IN THE SAME VEIN. HE SAID SPEECH SHOULD NOT BE LONG, THAT A PAGE, OR TWO AT THE MOST, WOULD BE QUITE SUFFICIENT.

4. COMMENT: AGGREY-ORELANS SEEMS TO BE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN INSURING THAT AMBASSADOR SMITH GETS OFF TO A GOOD START HERE. APART FROM HIS COMMENTS ON THE ARRIVAL AND CREDENTIALS CEREMONIES, HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT THE AMBASSADOR GETS APPOINTMENTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE SMC RIGHT AWAY AND OFFERED ADVICE ON HOW TO CULTIVATE SUCH RECALCITRANT FIGURES AS GYAWU-KYEM (EDITOR, GHANAIAAN TIMES) WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A TERRIBLE PERSON BUT ONE WHO IS A FACTOR TO DEAL WITH HERE. LINEHAN

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